

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for providing a consulting assessment environment, the method comprising:
 - receiving data about a business through a questionnaire, wherein the questionnaire is defined by a data template;
 - computing at least one assessment score based on formulas in an assessment framework template;
 - determining an appropriate action based on the at least one assessment score and a suggested actions template; and
 - reporting results based on the at least one assessment score and the appropriate action in accordance with a report template, wherein the assessment framework template and the suggested actions template encode business-related domain knowledge including at least one of best practices, business consultant expertise, and business goals, and wherein proprietary information and trade secrets of the consulting assessment environment are hidden from clients.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - determining a current state of the business based on the data;
 - identifying a desired state for the business using the assessment framework template and the suggested actions template; and
 - performing a gap analysis between the current state of the business and the desired state of the business to determine the appropriate action to achieve the desired state for the business.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - identifying benefits and risks based on the at least one assessment score and the appropriate action.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - consolidating portions of the results together for further analysis.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing an interface for a client to conduct a self-assessment to gather the data about the business, wherein the data is used to determine a current state of the business, and wherein automated data synthesis is performed to relate the current state of the business to a desired state in real time.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data template includes at least one of interview questions, weighing factors, desired states, benefit descriptions, risk descriptions, suggested actions, cost areas, and terminology.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the assessment framework template includes at least one of scoring information, calculations, suggested actions logic, benefit and risk logic, user feedback, and user input.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the proprietary information and the trade secrets of the consulting assessment environment that are encoded in any ~~at least one~~ of the data template, the assessment framework template, the suggested actions template, and the report template are made inaccessible to the clients ~~at least one user~~.
- 9-20. (Canceled)